

MEMO

To: Stillwater Public Library Board
From: Stacy DeLano, Library Director
Date: May 20, 2021
In re: Library hours for children and vulnerable populations

The library staff proposes establishing interim hours outside of normal library business hours for the purpose of providing library access to children who do not yet qualify for immunizations and for other still vulnerable populations.

The library currently opens to the public Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Under this proposal, the library will open one hour early on Tuesdays and Saturdays. During that one hour time period, all staff and visitors to the library will wear a face-covering over their mouth and nose. No exemptions from wearing a face-covering will be issued with the exception of children 0 to 2 years old who are advised by the CDC not to wear a face-covering.

The intent of the sessions and their timing includes:

1. To ensure continued access for those still vulnerable to Covid-19, including children 12 and under who cannot yet get a vaccination, and people with suppressed immune systems who may have been vaccinated but have been advised to continue a strict Covid-19 protocol.
2. To create the one hour sessions outside of normal business hours to minimize the confusion or frustration of other members the public.
3. To minimize the amount of extra staff time needed to provide the sessions by using periods when staff would be in the library anyway performing opening duties.

If approved, the library director will ask that the City Council allocate funds received from the Cares Act and the Coronavirus Relief Fund to facilitate the proposal.

If implemented, the plan will be assessed after one month to determine whether it is serving the goals intended. Adjustments to the sessions or elimination of the sessions may occur if the sessions are not being used or if they create unanticipated negative consequences. Otherwise, the tentative plan is to continue the special hours through the end of September when children 12 and under are expected to begin receiving vaccinations.

Staff recommends that the Library Board adopt this proposal as a way to continue serving community members still vulnerable to Covid-19, while limiting impact on regular hours.